(c) whether it is a fact that some sections are opposing the implementation of modernization programme;

(d) whether it is also a fact that non-modernization of Madarsa education has been one of the major reasons for the backwardness of muslim community; and

(e) if so, the steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) In the light of the findings of the Prime Ministers' High Level Committee on Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim community in India (Sachar Committee) and the recommendations of the National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education (NMCME) set up by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the erstwhile scheme for Madarsas Modernisation was revised as the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madarsas (SPQEM). The objective of the SPQEM is to provide financial assistance and encourage traditional institutions like Madrasas and Maktabs to introduce Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, Hindi and English in their curriculum so that children studying in these institutions gain academic proficiency for classes I-XII. SPQEM also provides for accreditation of Madarsas to National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and vocational education for children in the 14+ age group. In addition, it provides for assistance for computer and science laboratories in Madarsas of Secondary and Higher Secondary level, as also assistance for book banks and science kits at all levels. The revised Scheme was circulated to all State/UT Governments in October, 2008 seeking proposals and is also placed on the website of Department of School Education and Literacy for publicity. No proposal on the reformulated Scheme has been received from any State. The State Secretaries and Directors have been advised to forward proposals as per the parameters of the new Scheme at the earliest. No instance of opposition to the scheme by any section has come to the notice of the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Absence of teachers

1132. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted a couple of years ago brought out that 41 out of 100 teachers in Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand remain absent without permission on any given day;

(b) what action has been initiated under various Central Government Schemes for improving teachers' presence in the Government Primary Schools in Jharkhand;

(c) what has been the response of the State Government of Jharkhand to the suggestions and directions given by the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the position of utilization of grants given for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) An independent study commissioned by MHRD in 2006-07 in 20 major States, indicated a teacher presence rate of 81.7% at the primary level, and 80.5% at the upper primary level in the country. Jharkhand was not included in this study.

Separately however, the Jharkhand Education Project Council (JEPC) has conducted a study on teacher absenteeism in the State, which indicates that the average rate of teacher absenteeism in Government primary schools of Jharkhand is 21%. The State has initiated action, such as vigorous inspection of schools, posting of local teachers in the schools and Village Education Committees (VEC) have been vested with powers to check teacher absenteeism.

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides for Panchayati Raj bodies to supervise and monitor schools. Government of India has also asked States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability.

(d) The expenditure against funds available in Jharkhand during 2008-09 was 75%.

Anti Ragging Committees in Punjab colleges

1133. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of colleges of all hues in Punjab where Anti-Ragging Committees were not constituted within three months of Supreme Court's guidelines in the matter;

(b) the names of such colleges where such committee has not been formed till now; and

(c) the action taken by the University Grant Commission (UGC) and Government for not forming the committee or by taking delayed action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Punjab, Anti-Ragging Committees have been constituted in all Universities and its constituent colleges in the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Deemed university status to agricultural universities

1134. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal to give deemed university status to some of the agricultural universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the criteria fixed to give such status;